

*In the House of Representatives, January 18, 1847.*

What are the facts as regards this bill's paying half of the State debt? Why, sir, just this, that 5,554,000 dollars of our bonds are to be surrendered, (which is one half,) and half the amount thus surrendered are to be placed upon the State treasury, which is 2,777,000. This is to be met by a direct tax upon the people, and the other half we give them the canal and all its appurtenances for, or in other words, they are placed upon the canal, its tolls, water rents, and all the canal lands are bound for this half. This is a true statement of the facts, and who dares deny it? I say, sir, this bill only provides for the payment of one half the State debt and leaves the other half unpaid for in any shape or form. This is the way the bill pays the debt.

We are told that our opposition to this bill amounts to repudiation. If an honest endeavor to place all our creditors upon the same level, amounts to repudiation, then I plead guilty to the charge. I cannot deny that there is something there. They should consider that upon this as all other questions, there are two sides to it. And I must say that the advocates of this bill do virtually repudiate one half the entire debt of the State. Let them look to the priority clause, and then ask their conscience the all important question, who are the repudiators? Are they the holders of the bonds, or are they the holders of those who have used every means in their power to place them all upon the same level, and distribute pro rata the proceeds of all our means to the payment of this debt without distinction, to the rich, as well as to the poor.

As for me, I am willing to leave this question upon this issue, I am anxious that it should go in this form to the people, and will leave it to them to decide.

Here again, in conclusion, permit me to say, that the day is not far distant when the indignation of an insulted people will be visited in tones of thunder upon the heads of those who are about to pass this bill, and the few who have led the hardihood to oppose it will be promoted by the gratitude of a grateful and generous people to the highest places in their gift, and in the estimation of the people.

Mr. Shickley says, finally and forever, that we are sold to the English and the devil is to have possession of the deed.

It has been said that we have resolved ourselves to support a measure which we so severely censure in our experience at the confessional. Such is not the case with me, but duty to myself requires that I should ask the indulgence of the House, while briefly explain the reasons why I shall give the vote and assent to give on this great question.

The principle of the bill is so certain that its evil will be found in the first and tenth sections of it, but satisfied as I am that this bill will pass, with or without my vote, I can have no objection in voting for it, but that the decision will be judged to be right, and that the injury which will be done by the first article of the bill is to the State, and in it there is no violation of her pledged faith, honor, or integrity, and even with such injury, as compared with the bill of last winter, the State is, in my opinion, getting the better of it. No other proposition can or will be made by the State to her creditors, and they must and will as usual men, avail themselves of the benefits of this bill and in the end the State is relieved of one half of her debt, and the State is saved from bankruptcy, and the consequences of which are so injurious to her growth and prosperity.

the proposed law. "I get nothing. The State has no means to comply with the honest desire of her people to pay her debt. But if this arrangement is consummated the non-subscribing bondholders will get five per cent, on one half of their debt, while none they get nothing, with the contingency before them of ultimately realizing the other half from the casual sale of the property of the State. There is no time to deliberate and notice given to them to come in and subscribe to the advance and place themselves in the position to receive all the benefits of the act."

"This, Mr. Speaker, is the great question to the people of Indiana, and it is our duty to do all we can to satisfy and quiet the public mind, to give confidence and the ability to this question, to give it, in a word, a *bona fide* character. There is no other way to secure unity of action and harmony of feeling. Let us by our votes here say to the people of the State, and to the world, that Indiana has *bona fide* and in good faith determined to make the best arrangement within her ability, not inconsistent with her honor, to liquidate her debt, and do justice to herself and her creditors."

up on the special stock; and fifthly, the full amount of principal money chargeable on the canal. All these payments to be made to the subscribers of such shares as they might be disposed to take. The unfortunate bondholders who should not, probably from want of means, subscribe for the completion of the canal. He did not believe that was right. He would vote to give to all the priority, except the principal of the cancelled bonds. That should stand on a par with the new shares. He did not believe that the standard of salary for the canal trustees. Trusting in future legislation, it would be better known what would suit the day than could be known now. The bondholders were afraid of the honesty of the State, and he was afraid to trust them. The trust the State, I am afraid to credit them. The interest of the State, he said, forbade that the trustees should be starved out. Why was it said at this time that their salaries should not be reduced below twenty-five hundred dollars? He had heard of no such thing. He had said while in committee, before the time which prudence would have dictated that he should speak arrived, his positions were so misstated, the path before me being trodden over by other gentlemen that he abandoned the idea. He would give to the State his support, believing that the State had a right to it, and to retrieve her from the ruin which the diverted funds which she had labored under.

He objected to this bill, as it gave a priority in payment to the wealthy bond-holders over the more unfortunate who were not able to come into the arrangement. He thought there was great injustice in making any distinction among their creditors, but believed all should be equally provided for.

We are told that the bill provides for the payment of one half of the whole debt. He asked if there was any guarantee that all the bondholders would accept the provisions of the bill, if only the amount of bonds required by the bill as amended shall be surrendered, then one fourth instead of one half of the debt is provided for, and the other half must be deferred.

Mr. HARLÉ said, in substance, as follows:—  
 Mr. SPEAKER:—It affords me great pleasure to be able to state, that I am prepared to vote on this great question understandingly. Some of the members of this House are opposed to the passage of the bill, for the reasons assigned; and I am not prepared to observe, that they have not been able to fathom its depths. For my own part, I will assert that no member came here less governed by influences and prejudices, than I; for I confess, that until after the convening of this Legislature, I never read the bill of last winter, consequently had not formed an opinion either the one way or the other. This bill has received my devoted care and study since first it was laid before the House in a tangible shape, with the sole view to do justice to its merits, if any it possesses; and with the lights now before me, my vote is—  
 I do not now, Mr. Speaker, propose to discuss the merits or demerits of the bill, for it is apparent to all that the House is anxious to take the vote, and it would trespass on its kindness so to do.

Why this sudden and unaccountable change! If those amendments were material and important when offered, have they become less so now? If the movers were sincere then, are they so now? If they were not important amendments, why were they offered? To have offered them in bad faith, was mockery to this House. To have offered them in good faith, was doing what they should have done, and a sufficient reason for voting against the bill. And I can see no good reason why a change so radical should have taken place. But that is a matter with them and not with this House. Their consciences, I hope, will prove their course.

Mr. Speaker, will not detain the House—I regret that my good pleasure forbids a discussion of the provisions of the bill. I know that a large majority of its members are impatient for the sacrifice, and I intrude upon its patience. In conclusion I must be permitted to protest against the passage of this bill on behalf of myself; I protest against its passage on behalf of the true friends of the colored race; I protest on behalf of this deliberative body of the people's lawgivers; I protest against its passage on behalf of the people of the State at large; I protest against its passage on behalf of the poor men, the widows and the orphans who hold our bonds, and are and will be unable to become parties to this bill; and I protest against its passage on behalf of those who would have to be walled off from the world by the shedding of tears, and on whose eyelids will sit the shadow of death, if it shall become a law.

He had been innated to him, he said, that he was trucking for favor. He had nothing to gain or lose personally by this bill. His notions of right, and his duty to his constituents, alone impelled him to the course he had taken. He believed this measure would be the best for the country. He had no personal indignation would be more effectually roused by the passage of this bill than it was when the legitimate effect of the passage of the Internal Improvement scheme was discovered.

Mr. DUNHAM said, he was placed in a more awkward position, perhaps, in reference to this bill, than any other member of the House. He had thought it his duty to vote in favor of the proposed amendments to it; and by his efforts to do so he had drawn down upon himself the disapprobation of the warm friends of the measure. He was driven, for that purpose, thus far to act with those who were opposed to the whole arrangement. Now, by his vote (for he should vote for the passage of the bill) he should bring upon himself the disapprobation of those who were looked upon by them as a sort of traitor to their cause; but it would be without reason, for he had

was insinuated, when he had candidly stated that Le was friendly to the bill, but that he had offered and supported his amendments with all his energy from principle, because he believed that they ought to be adopted, and because at the same time he thought it would be better to have the bill rejected than to have it passed, or preventing it from being accepted, by the House. He was not, however, to be deterred by the creditors and carried into effect hereafter. The House, in its wisdom, had decided otherwise, and he was disposed to acquiesce in what he hoped was their better judgment. His opinions were not changed.—There was not an amendment that he had advocated that he did not believe was correct in principle, and must be admitted to be so by every unprejudiced member of the House. The provisions of the bill was too stringent—too rigorous, and operated with too much harshness upon the non-subscribers towards the completion of the mortgage. He might have been more ready to become satisfied to give efficacy to the bill, if indeed he had become almost satisfied, through information which he had since obtained, that the provisions of the tenth section were necessary. Not that they

whether the bill was in the best form which it could possibly be, and the consequence was, having no other alternative, no best form which the State could get it into, whether more good would result, and more justice be done to all parties, by its passage than by its defeat. This question he had carefully and anxiously weighed in his mind, and the result was, that the bill ought to pass. The State could lose nothing. It would be an advantage to her if her bondholders would complete the canal and their other improvements, without putting on her a single dollar of her indebtedness upon it; for if they should be no expense to the State, and would furnish to her a very large portion of her citizens an ample outlet for their surplus produce. Then all that was put upon it of the indebtedness of the State would be so much clear gain in the way of its payment, no matter whether it were one million or six millions of dollars. If the revenues, without any tax to be added, and the sooner would be ours again, and those resources could be applied in payment of some other portion of our debt. It was not like selling it, for then its full value ought to be insisted upon, and it ought not to be parted with for less. Now it was simply giving up its revenues to pay so much of our debt; and when it was paid, it would be ours again. If it were paid again. Then if it were made to pay but one million it would be better than that the present arrangement should fail, and none of our debt be paid by it. If it were made to pay half of our debt, it is believed the bill would do, or very nearly half, why so much the better.

The one-half alert upon the treasury, on which they would immediately get their interest, would bring them more in the market than the world would now, when nothing was paid. Indeed, the extent of the interest would be so multiplied, that it would be made, removed to a very great extent his objection to the priorities. It now gave them all ample time to obtain information of the passage and provisions of the bill, and to make such arrangements as might be necessary to enable them to subscribe and pay the five per cent. advance required to secure to themselves the interest on the loan. It would also enable them to have the time extended to January or March, 1848, but he thought, perhaps, it would now enable all to come in who might wish. Then it would bring our indebtedness within our means; it would enable us to redeem the honor, the character, and the credit of our beloved State; it would restore her crippled energies, and open to her the most direct and rapid pathway of prosperity and greatness. It would dissipate the gloomy shadow of necessary repudiation which had so long hung over us; it would remove the blighting effects of the incubus of indebtedness which had been so long grinding us into the dust; it would bring hope and happiness to the heart, and content and confidence to the soul.

He would vote for it then, trusting that none of those evils which he had feared might result from

to imprudent legislation, we can so manage as to extinguish one half of the State debt with the canal, and all its lands and other appurtenances, the other half we can endure for a while, pay the interest thereon yearly, and ultimately the principal. Should we hesitate? I think not. True, we present a sad and mournful spectacle, like unto that of a Probate court settling an insolvent's estate, and advertising creditors to come within a certain time to draw their due proportion, else all assets will be paid to more diligent creditors, to their exclusion. Sir, our proceeding to-day is quite similar. We are constrained to acknowledge (painful as it may be,) that we have no hope or expectation of ever being able to

disent, upon their return home, not to produce discontent, or a spirit of opposition to this great measure; upon the fulfillment of its provisions depends whether or not it is approved by those whose will has to be our rule of action. If they approve, all the provisions of the law can be carried in full force and effect. If they denur to it, all our labor has been in vain. If, then, when members return home, we seek, instead of producing a feeling against the justice of our measure, to produce a feeling in their favor, we must, necessarily, to explain to his constituents all of the provisions which seem abstruse or difficult to be understood, and I am confident to approve of it, it is only necessary to correctly con true it. It is not a whig or democrat measure—it derives its paternity from each. Be it said to the credit of this Hall, it is no party question. A majority of each party manfully comes up to its support, and proud to see it, and beseech each member when he goes home to remember his duty to countenance and support a fair measure in regard to it, let not headliners say that we are not true to our

**Congress.**

SENATE, January 14.—The Committee on Naval Affairs reported a bill for the appointment of Assistant Surgeons in the Navy, and increasing the relative

Mr. Seaman, of New York, introduced a bill to prevent the importation of foreigners into this country. Mr. S. is a "Native."

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**From the Army.**

The Delta of the 7th inst. says, the United States transport steamship *Alabama* arrived last evening from Brazos Santiago, whence she sailed on the 5d inst. She had on board Gen. Jessup and staff, 30 other cabin passengers and 240 sick and discharged soldiers.

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The forces in Siltbo have been considerably strengthened. The Kentucky and Ohio regiments under Gen. Butler, have gone there, and the Kentucky Cavalry were to march on the 23d ult.

Monterey, under the command of Col. Garland, is considerably re-inforced.

On the road from Camargo to Monterey, the two Indiana Regiments, the Kentucky Cavalry and about seven hundred Regulars were met by our informant.

Col. Morgan, of the second regiment of Ohio Volunteers, who has command at Camargo is fortifying

Gen. Scott was on his way to the headquarters of Gen. Taylor, which were to be at Victoria. All apprehension of Santa Anna's assuming offensive operations were at an end. He holds the key to Southern Mexico. His force greatly exaggerated. It is now said positively not exceed 10,000 men all told, badly provisioned and scanty supply of arms and ammunition. He has many able officers, English, French and German with him. It is clear he will justify in the best possible manner the confidence placed in him.

WELL DONE MASSACHUSETTS.—The fifth company of Massachusetts volunteers elected its officers on Thursday. The Boston Times says the others are fast filling up.

We regret to learn that Purser Andrew D. Crosby, of the Mississippi, was lost from on board the Vixen entering Laguna. He was in the rigging of the vessel, as the fidelity of the pilot (a Mexican, the man who was piloting the Truxton, when she was lost at Tuxpan) was suspected; the vessels giving a heavy lurch, he lost his hold and fell on the deck, and was instantly killed. He was buried with military honors in the cemetery of the British Consul at Tuxpan.

The Amalians taken off Alvarado, together with the Spanish brig Isabella, both sailing from that port for Havana. Commodore Perry, on his return to the United States, was informed that the Spaniards looked into Tabasco and Alvarado, and found that the fortifications of both places have been repaired and much strengthened since they were attacked by the squadron. At Tabasco there were about 3000 troops, and at Alvarado about 4000. Notwithstanding these formidable preparations, the general impression is that the Commodore Comor will soon attack that place.

On the arrival of Gen. La Vega at Vera Cruz on the 15th, all the prisoners from the squadron in the hands of the enemy were released. It is now ascertained that but eleven of the crew of the brig Smeraldine had been killed when she was wrecked, and not sixteen, as was first stated. Multipinn Rogers was taken prisoner, and is now in the hands of the Spaniards. Rogers was a private in the 1st Artillery, and military tribunals as a spy, and had been acquitted by the former, but found guilty by the latter. It was believed, however, that the more favorable verdict would prevail, and that he would be liberated.

Amoy is situated on the left bank of the river at the mouth of the river, and is a small town at the foot of the mountains, near the city of Mexico, and is said to be navigable about 700 miles up. In a commercial point of view, perhaps this place is inferior to none in Mexico. In the rear of the city is a small lake of pure water, which communicates with the river by a small stream, and is used for the purpose of irrigation. The head of this lake is surrounded by high mountains, overlooking the city and the adjacent country. On these grounds and at the foot of the lake, fortifications are rapidly progressing, and a number of the best engineers are employed upon them. The curious and very curious doubt whether an invading army at Boston or New York, could get the Yankees to help them fortify.

In the revolution, a British officer could hardly get

They possess in not—but, above all, I would deliver them from the thraldom of a national church.

One generation, under a liberal and enlightened government, would accomplish more towards the promotion of the real happiness and interests of this people, than has been effected by all the wars, conquests, and colonies, that have ever been acquired and colonized by Cortes, under the then most enlightened and powerful nation in the world, a hundred years before the poor, solitary colony of Pilgrims at Plymouth. This is the most climatic and the richest soil in the world—that is cold and sterile. Now, what is the relative position of the two countries—Mexico and New England? The contrast is sickening. What is the cause of this?—What the remedy? And who shall undertake it?

A court of inquiry was convened on board the *Pomona* on the 13th, to investigate the cause of the loss of the brig *Somers*, recently capsized in a squall off Green Island. The result of the investigation, it was generally understood in the squadron, is an acquittal of the commander, Lieut. Sommes, of all blame for the loss of that vessel. The six or eight of the crew that drifted on shore after the loss of that unfortunate vessel, were still held as prisoners by the Mexicans.

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